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ABSTRACT

This book provides a portrait of city life as observed by the author in an urban area encompassing two communities--one black, low income, and very poor (with an extremely high infant mortality rate) and the other racially mixed but becoming increasingly middle-to-upper income and white. It explores the dilemma of both Blacks and Whites, the ghetto poor and the middle class, who are caught up in the new struggle not only for common ground--prime real estate in a racially changing neighborhood--but for a shared moral community. The author shows that by living in the area, diverse residents often become increasingly familiar with one another, wise to the ways of the streets, and more adept at maneuvering in the urban environment. Specific areas examined include the impact of drugs within the community, sex codes and family life among the youth, street etiquette and wisdom, and the unique difficulties and attitudes associated with and towards the black male. An appendix provides some demographic variables from the urban community including housing, family income, and educational trends. Contains more than 150 references and an index. (GLR)

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